

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8650

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS SPOP BR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS-
POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF A. STATE 107370 B. STATE 197788

1. REF A MESSAGE OF MAY 5 JUST CAME TO ATTENTION OF NEW AMBASSADOR
AND PRESENT STAFF WITH ARRIVAL OF TICKLER REF B. WE HAVE NO INDICATIO
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THAT ANY ACTION TOOK PLACE PREVIOUSLY, NOR WAS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO
AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION SUBSEQUENT TO ARRIVAL AT POST.

2. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR'S RECENT ARRIVAL AND ACTUAL POPULATION/
FOOD SITUATION (SEE PARA 3) OF BRAZIL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE
APPROPRIATE OR PRODUCTIVE FOR AMBASSADOR TO MAKE SPECIAL CONTACTS
WITHIN NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. WE RECOGNIZE GLOBAL
IMPORTANCE OF THESE ISSUES, AND THEY ARE ALREADY INCORPORATED IN
US/BRAZIL RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR SHALL SEEK AND UTILIZE OPPORTUNITIES
IN FUTURE NORMAL CONTACTS TO DISCUSS US POSITION ON POPULATION
/FOOD AND NEED FOR BRAZILIAN COOPERATION. (FOR EXAMPLE, IN
AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND WELFARE,
SUBJECT OF GOB PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION OF HIGH RISK PREGNANCY IN
RELATION TO OUR FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE AND TO MEDICAL SERVICES
SYSTEM OF MINISTRY WAS DISCUSSED.

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3. IN CONTEXT OF MESSAGE OF REF A, FOLLOWING IS OUR SUMMARY OF
RELEVANT ASPECTS REGARDING BRAZIL:

A. GOB SUBSCRIBED AT BUCHAREST IN 1974 TO PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNMENT
HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND MEANS FOR FAMILY PLANNI
NG
TO CITIZENS. THE 2ND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1975-79) RECOGNIZED

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF HIGH POPULATION GROWTH AND PREDICTED DECLINING RATE OF GROWTH. THE GOB REMOVED SOME LEGAL OBSTACLES TO CONTRACEPTIVE USE BUT TOOK NO POSITIVE ACTION AT FEDERAL LEVEL UNTIL BEGINNING OF SMALL PROGRAM IN PREVENTION OF HIGH RISK PREGNANCY IN 1977 (77 BRASILIA 6566). GOB, HOWEVER, HAS TOLERATED IF NOT ENCOURAGED SUBSTANTIAL, GOWING PROGRAM OF FAMILY PLANNING BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STATE-LEVEL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES, WITH SUPPORT TO THESE EFFORTS FROM US POPULATION FUNDING SOURCES KNOWN TO MINISTER OF HEALTH, FONMIN, AND OTHERS (BRASILIA 2904). PRESIDENT GEISEL TOOK OCCASION OF VISIT TO MEXICO IN JANUTARY TO REAFFIRM CONCERN OVER POPULATION GROWTH (BRASILIA 0972).

B. BRAZIL IS STILL ACCEPTING IMMIGRANTS; THERE IS NET INFLOW RATHER THAN EXPORT OF POPULATION.

C. CURRENTLY BRAZIL IS WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, FOOD EXPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO GREATLY OVERBALANCE IMPORTS, AND POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDED FOOD PRODUCTION IS VERY GOOD (BRASILIA 6830). 2ND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AGRICULTURAL STRATEGY CALLS FOR 7 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH IN SECTOR, MODERNIZATION, AND PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES, AND UTILIZATION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN CENTRAL PLATEAU, AMAZON BASIN, AND NORTHEASTERN VALLEYS. THE PLAN SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES BRAZIL'S ROLE AS A WORLD SUPPLIER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. GOB PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FIGUEIREDO HAS STATED AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION WILL HAVE HIGH PRIORITY UNDER HIS GOVERNMENT. IN HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL, PRESI-

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DENT CARTER RECOGNIZED BRAZIL'S IMPORTANCE IN WORLD AGRICULTURE AND DECIDED TO ESTABLISH SUBGROUP ON AGRICULTURE TO ENHANCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE-THIS WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FORUM FOR PRESENTATION OF US POLICIES AND POSSIBLE COOPEATION IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

D. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT STATE 107370 IS NOT PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE TO BRAZIL WHICH IS NOT REALLY "THIRD WORLD COUNTRY". BRAZIL HAS ITS FEET IN BOTH CAMPLS BUT AS OUR POLICY ON TRADE AND ASSISTANCE INDICATES IT IS MOVING INTO OECD CATEGORY. BRAZIL NOW HAS LARGER ECONOMY AND MORE INFLUENCE ON WORLD TRADE THAN MANY OECD MEMBERS. ON OTHER HAND, BRAZIL IS TWO COUNTRIES ECONOMICALLY WITH THE SOUTHERN HALF IN THE OECD CATEGORY AND THE NORTHERN HALF AMONG THE "POPREST OF THE POOR." ON THIS USG POLICY IS VERY AMBIVALEN T.

WHEREAS REFERENCE TELEGRAM SPEAKS IN TERMS OF BRAZIL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING THE LOT OF ITS SOME 40,000,000 POOR IN RETURN FOR US ASSISTANCE, THEREIS NO US ASSISTANCE AND WE ARE TRYING TO EASE BRAZIL OUT OF DEVELOPMENT BAKS WHERE IT IS NOW OBTAINING RESOURCES TO HELP SOLVE THIS DESPERATE PROBLEM. (SEE BRASILIA 6073). IT WOULD HELP IN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE BRAZILIANS IF WE HAD COHERENT POLICY STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO BRAZIL ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ASSISTANCE.

4. AMBASSADOR'S APPROACHES TO BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WILL TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THESE FACTORS.
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